understood the full scope of his request, her generous heart responded to it, and she at once promised to use her influence in effecting the object of his wishes. In a few days, she announced to him her complete success in procuring the freedom of his wife and six children. Then having provided amply for their comfort on the voyage, she presented him with four hundred dollars, as an outfit, and prepared to bid him a final adieu. But this was a trial almost beyond her strength. The noble determination which had hitherto supported her, at the moment of its consummation, gave way, and, for a time, she indulged her grief in a flood of tears. But again the heroine triumphed over the woman; and she gave them a parting blessing as they left her to join the expedition at Wilmington. A gentleman who was present, told me, he never witnessed a scene of such touching interest, as the parting of that grateful family with their protector and friend."

It was in this expedition that Lewis Sheridan, a coloured man, who had acquired considerable property in North Carolina, and who bore the reputation of being a man of extraordinary mercantile ability, embarked. It was known at the time, however, that he went not as a decided friend to colonization, but more from dissatisfaction with certain State laws that had been lately passed. He located himself at Bexley in the Bassa Cove settlement, where he refused at first to subscribe to the provisional laws of the society, but afterwards yielded the point when he found that he could not persuade the colonists to join with him in a petition to have them altered; and commenced a farm of six hundred acres, upon which he employed over a hundred labourers. The only derogatory letter ever received in this country from a colonist, proceeded from Mr. Sheridan, soon after his arrival, and was extensively published in abolition papers. We shall take no further notice of this letter, except to refer our readers to the letter itself, and the answers to it of Governor Matthias and the Rev. Mr. Seyes, who happened to be in this country at the time, as found in Vol. XV. of the African Repository, pp. 33–44; and except to state, that the probable explanation of it is, that it was composed while the author was not only in a state of mental but of physical disease, and while momentarily suffering under the very natural feeling of wounded pride and mortification, arising from the fact, that Mr. Sheridan, as a colonist, was not received and treated with

all that deference with which he used to be looked up to by the people of colour in his own neighbourhood in North Carolina; and that it is altogether a thing of which Mr. Sheridan has long since deeply repented.*

In the month of March, the Mississippi State Society sent out an expedition by the brig Mail, from New Orleans, consisting of thirty-seven emigrants. These were a fine set of men, collected from that State, under the agency of Mr. Finley. A farewell meeting was held upon the deck of the vessel, and a final address made to the departing emigrants, by the agent. The farewell scene between the emancipated slaves and their friends, was one of tender interest. "One person," says a spectator, "whom we remarked particularly, was an aged man, with grey locks carefully combed over his bald crown, and a general appearance of self respect which comported well with his dignified deportment and brawny proportions, which gave together quite the impression of a patriarch, as he stood with head uncovered, surrounded by a group of the younger emigrants, listening with profound attention to their final instructions. But his own children, we were told, were not present. He has for several years endeavoured to persuade them to go to Africa, setting before them all the advantages which they would derive from the change. But less enterprising than himself, they have declined doing so, and he has at last resolved to leave them and visit the country himself, and persuade them subsequently by letter, if possible, to follow him. He is a man of considerable property, and has assisted several families besides his own in acquiring their freedom." Twenty-six of these emigrants had been set free by Mr. Anketell, who had taken much pains to prepare them for freedom and usefulness. The whole expedition was well provided with clothes, tools, and farming utensils. Working animals were purchased for them at the Cape de Verd Islands, and they commenced, immediately upon their arrival, with great cheerfulness the improvement of their farms, which they found already laid out for them. An agent had been employed to prepare houses, clear land, and plant vegetables, so that the emigrants, on their arrival, found good quarters, and an abundance of cassada, rice, and potatoes.

Their town, Greenville, is on the Sinoe river, five miles from

* This man died a few months ago.

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

XIV. Books
3.
A History of Colonization on the West Coast of Africa
by Archibald Alexander, Philadelphia, 1846